



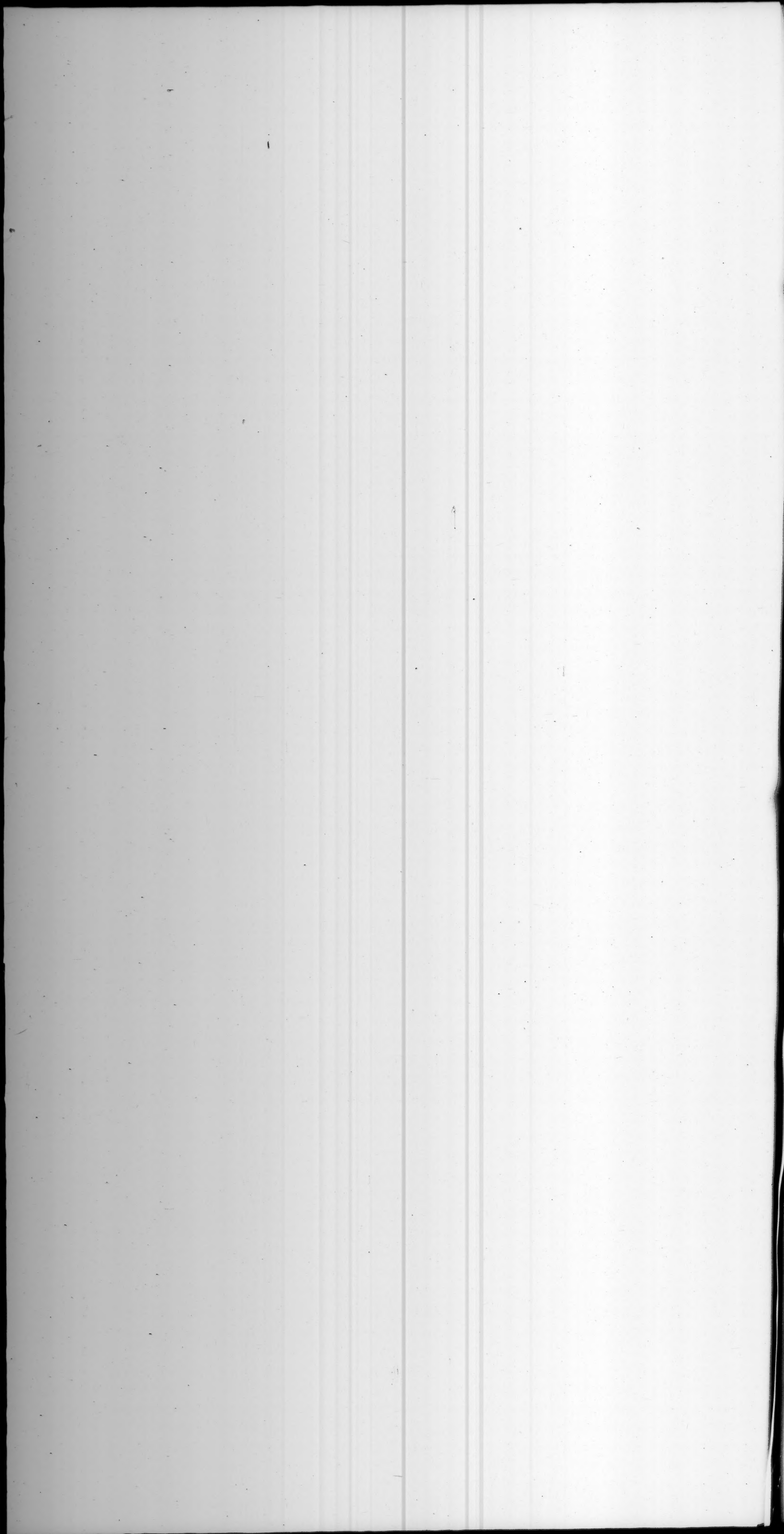
By the King.

A Proclamation for preuenting the dearth
of Corne and Victuall.



He Kings most Excellent Maiestie, (whose watchfull Eye of prouidence, for the publique good of his louing Subiects, is alwayes kept open) hath lately taken into his Princely consideration, the generall scarcitie and dearth of Graine and Victuall like to fall out, and much feared this yeere following in many parts of this Kingdome. And hauing vpon aduice with the Lords of his Maiesties Priny Counsell, considered of such good meanes as haue been heretofore vled vpon the like occasion, and some others, which by a due and seasonable execution, may (by Gods blessing) preuent those extremities, which otherwise the scarcitie threatned, may bring forth, doeth by this his Proclamation publish and declare his Royall pleasure and Commandement therein, for the good of his people, in the seuerall Articles here ensuing.

First, wheras his Maiestie hath with the aduice of his said Priny Counsell, caused a Booke of Orders, for preuenting and remedying the dearth of Graine and Victuall, (which was first conceived and made in the time of the late Queene Elizabeth, and afterwards renewed in the time of his Maiesties Royall Father of blessed memory) to bee againe reuised and enlarged with some necessary additions, grounded vpon the Statutes made since the first publishing thereof, and hath taken care for reprinting of the same; Whereby particular directions are giuen for suppressing the abuses and offences of Ingrossers, Badgers, Broggers, Carriers, and Buyers of Corne, Vault makers, Brewers, Bakers, Milners, and others Trading in Corne, as also for causing the Assize of Bread and Beere to bee truly kept, and the Markets duely supplied with Corne, and the poore first serued and prouided for, with other like clauses to the good purpose aforesayd: His Maiestie straitly chargeth and commandeth, aswell the Lord Maior, Recorder, Aldermen and Sheriffes of the Citie of London, and all other Officers and Ministers of the sayd Citie, as also all and singular Sheriffes, Iustices of



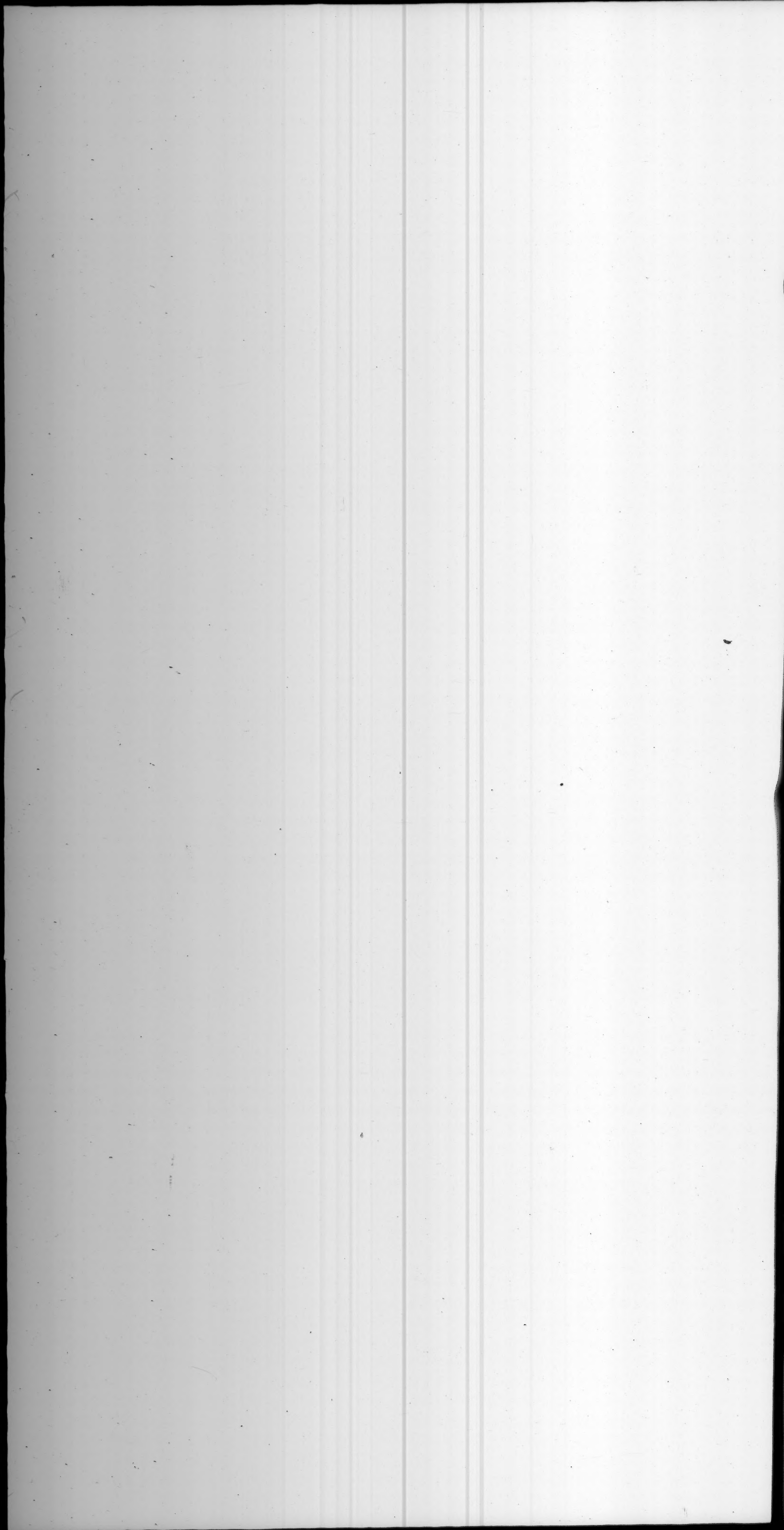
Peace, and other Officers and Ministers in the severall Counties of this Realme, and all Maiors, Sheriffes, Bayliffes, Aldermen, and other Magistrates, Officers and Ministers of all other Cities and Townes Corporate, that they and every of them, within their severall Limits and Jurisdictions respectively, doe carefully and diligently put in due and speedie execution the said Orders and Directions, and every of them, according to his Majesties expresse pleasure therein signified, as they will avoyd his Majesties iust indignation, and such further punishments as shall or may bee inflicted vpon them, for their neglect of any the duties of their severall places, and the contempt of this his Majesties Royall Commandement.

And because in the scarcitie of Cozne, the plenty and cheapnesse of other Victuals, may helpe to giue some ease and reliefe to the poore, and the forbearing of Flesh, aswell in the time of Lent, as vpon other Fish-dayes, may bee a good meanes to draw downe the prices of Flesh, and will also be a good encouragement for the Trade of Fishing, when the certain Rent and Sale of Fish shall be provided for.

And whereas his Majestie vpon some of these considerations, hath by his Highnesse Proclamation bearing date at the Court at White Hall, the eighteenth day of January last past, set downe certaine Orders and particular Directions for restraint of killing, dressing, and eating of Flesh in Lent, and vpon other Fish-dayes, to be duely and strictly obserued, both for the time of Lent then following, and for all succeeding times, as thereby appeareth; his Majestie hath iust cause to be offended at the Supine remissenesse, and wilfull contempt generally committed and suffered by the inordinate libertie taken by all sorts of people against the good and wholesome Orders contained in the said Proclamation, vpon such weightie Reasons grounded, and in such strict termes deliuered and entoynd.

And therefore being resolved to take a more strict account thereof for the time to come, both at the hands of the Officers to whom the execution thereof is committed, and of every private person that shall presume to disobey the same; especially in this time of generall feare, and expectation of Dearth (if by good and politique rule and order the same be not in some good measure prevented) doth hereby straightly charge and command aswell the Lord Maior of the Citie of London, for and within the said Citie and the Liberties thereof, and all and singuler Maiors, chiefe Officers of other Cities, and Townes Corporate, and also the Iustices of Peace, within the severall Counties of England and Wales, that they and every of them within the severall limits of their Commissions and Jurisdictions respectively, doe forthwith more diligently and carefully see and cause that the said Proclamation of the eighteenth of January last, and all Articles and Clauses therein contained, be both in Lent next, and at all other times from henceforth duely and strictly obserued and performed in every point, vpon paine of his Majesties high displeasure, and such Penalties as by the Lawes of this Realme may bee inflicted vpon the offenders, for their neglect or contempt of his Majestie or his Lawes, vpon this second warning.

And whereas by an ancient and laudable Custome no suppers were wont to bee kept on Fridayes, or the Eues of Fastis commanded to be fasted, nor vpon Wednesdayes, or Saturdayes in the Ember Weekes and time of Lent, but a generall abstinence from Suppers on those nights: And the same course is to this day for the most part obserued, not onely in his Majesties most Honourable household, and in the Families of most of the Nobilitie and great



men of the Kingdome; but also in the Innnes of Court and Chancerie, and in the Colledges and Halls of both Uniuerſities, and all other publique places of good orders, and in the houſes of many Knights and Eſquiers that are moſt commended for good houſe keeping, according to the ancient manner of England, for which this Realme hath heretofore been ſo much honoured. Nowbeit that good and laudable cuſtome is daily more and more neglected, and that good order broken eſpecially in Tauerneſ, Innnes, Ordinaries, houſes of Dicing and Playing, Cookes houſes, and other Victualing houſes, where commonly there is more waſte and exceſſe on the Faſting nights, then in any time of the Weeke beſides.

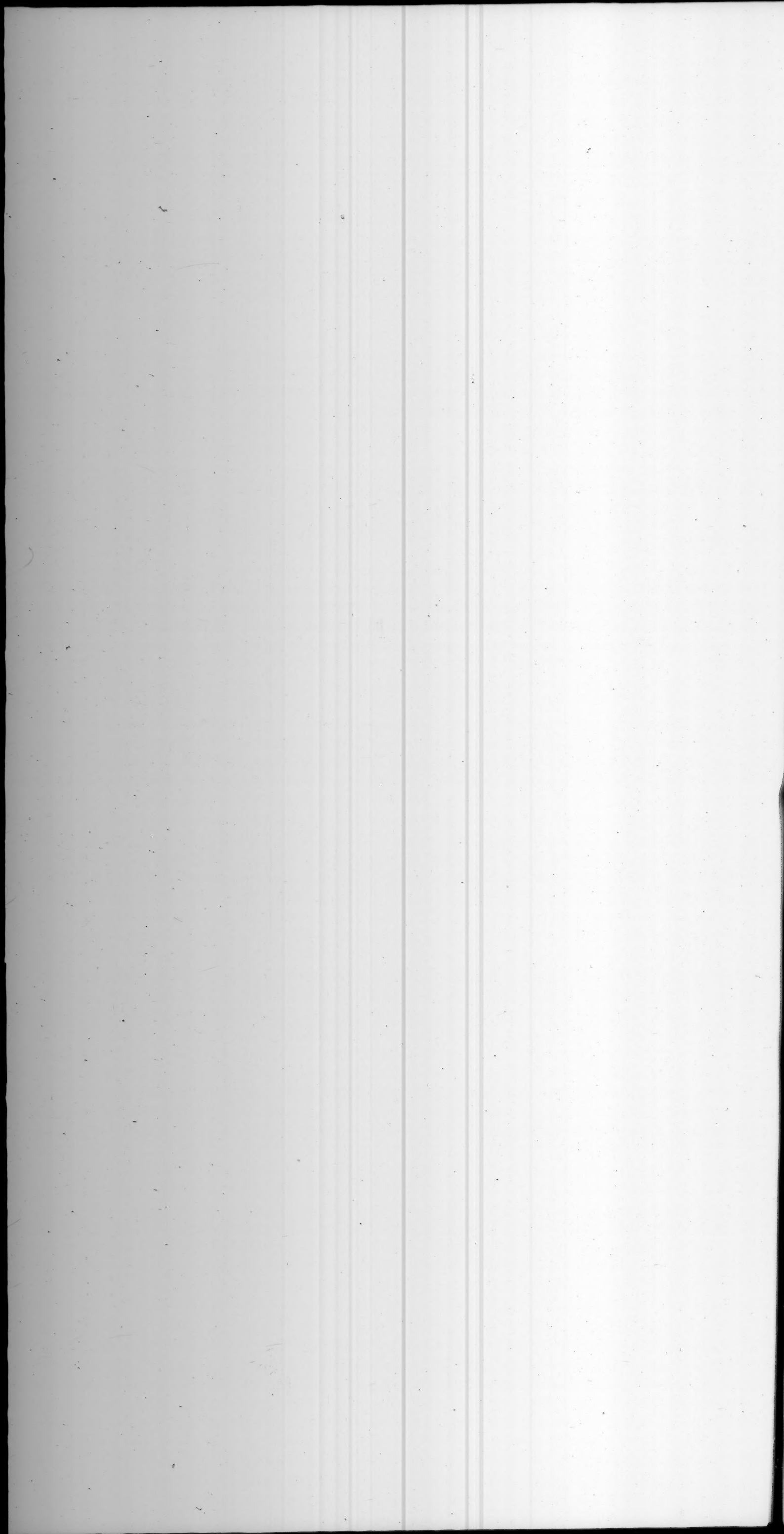
His Maieſtie therefore doth ſtraightly charge and command that this ſaid ancient and laudable cuſtome bee ſtrictly obſerued in all and ſingular Tauerneſ, Innnes, Ordinaries, houſes of Dicing and Play, Cookes houſes, and other Victualing houſes, and that no Suppers bee in them, or any of them, or by the owners of them or any of them, or their ſeruants had, dreſſed or prouided for to be eaten either in their owne houſes, or elſewhere, vpon any the Faſting nights aforeſaid; And that in the Bonds or Recognizances to bee taken of them for obſeruatiſon of Lent and Fiſh dayes, this Article be ſpecially remembred and prouided for.

And as his Maieſtie doeth commaund this courſe to bee obſerued in the places aforeſaid, ſo hee doth with the Advice of his Prīue Counſell, commend the ſame courſe to the reſt of his Subjects in their priuate Families, in this time of ſcarcity, and that they would out of that which ſhall bee ſaued by this abſtinence, and by their ſober and moderate dyet at other times, charitably and bountifully employ ſome good proportion towards the reliefe of thoſe, that ſhall bee in penury and want, and would bee glad to bee reſreſhed with the meaneſt of that foode which is ſuperfluouſly ſpent in Rich-mens houſes.

And for the ſame end, his Maieſty by like Advice of his Prīue Counſell doeth will and ordeyne, that the vſuall Feaſts at the Halles of Companies in London, which at other times haue beene, and may bee vſed, bee, during the time of Sickeneſſe or Dearth this yeere forborne.

And becauſe the ſayd Societies and Companies ſhall by this meanes of putting ouer their Feaſtes, ſpare much money of that which hath beene heretofore vſually ſpent that way, his Maieſtie doeth ſpecially recommend it vnto them; that thoſe who ſhould haue borne the Charge of thoſe Feaſtes, would allow, if not more, yet at the leaſt the one halfe of what that Charge would haue come vnto, towards the reliefe of the poore, which being orderly diſburſed, will bee a great comfort vnto them, and will bee a matter of great Charitie in the doers thereof, and beeing by them accordingly perſormed, his Maieſtie will graciously accept thereof, and will finde meanes to giue them their due commendation and Right, as on the contrary, hee ſhall haue cauſe to remember the hardneſſe of their hearts, which in this time of want ſhall ſhew themſelues ſo mercileſſe, as not to diſtribute vpon the poore, one halfe of that, which they would bee content to ſpend on a Feaſt, which may well bee ſpared.

And whereas his Maieſtie is informed, that ſundry Merchants, Strangers and Aliens of Forraigne Countreys, in Amittie with his Maieſtie, haue been heretofore accuſtomed to bring their Shippes and other Veſſels from their owne Countreys, into ſome of the

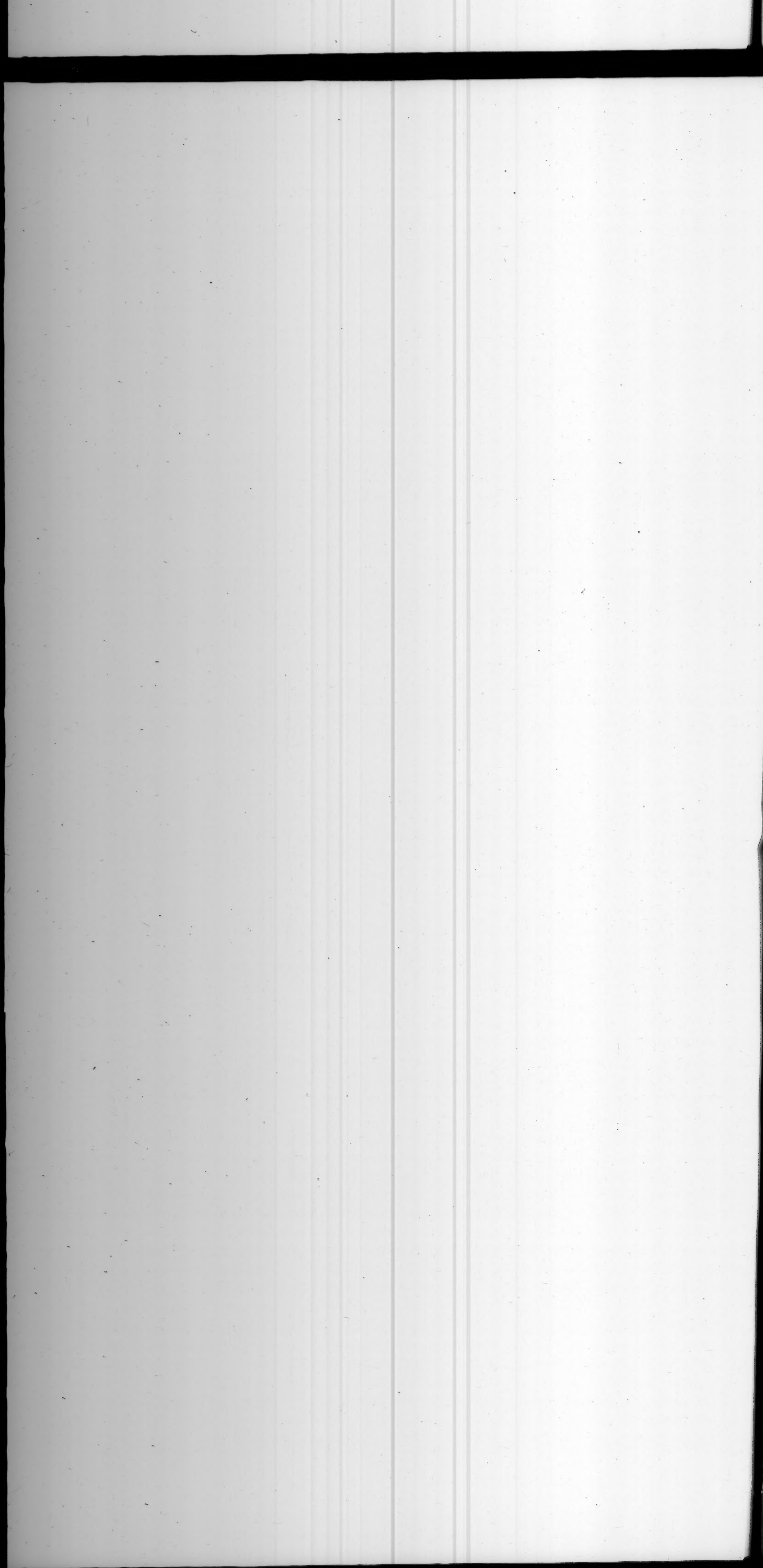


Portes, Hauens, or Creekes of England or Wales, Unuictualled of purpose, that vnder colour of taking in a supply of fresh Victuals for their necessities, they might Victuall themselves, and their Shippe-Company from hence for other long Voyages, whereby such Strangers haue beene suffered to carry away much of the Corne and Victuals, wherewithall his Maiesties owne Subjects should haue beene sustayned and relieved, and they by that meanes pinched with want, which in time of Scarcitie is by no meanes to bee suffered.

His Maiestie therefore doeth by this Proclamation giue in expresse Charge and Command, as well the Lord Maior of London, for the Port of London, as to all Maiors and other Magistrates of the Out-Ports, and all Creekes and Harbrough Townes, and to all Sheriffes and Iustices of Peace of the Maritime Counties, as also to all Customers, Comptrollers, Searchers, and other his Maiesties Officers of his Customes, and to euery of them respectiue, that they in no wise suffer any such thing to bee done hereafter: Notwithstanding, If any such Aliens or Strangers shall with their Ships or other Vessels by distresse of weather at Sea, or other inevitable accident be driuen into any the Ports, Hauens, Creeks or Harbroughs aforesayd; his Maiestie is well pleased, that they shall haue libertie to prouide and take vp such quantities of Victuals, and proportion of necessities for their Ship-Company onely, as by the Lord Maior of London for the Port of London, or by the Maior or chiefe Magistrate of the sayd Port Towne, Hauen or Creeke in the Out-Ports, where the sayd Ship shall be driuen in, and by two of the next Iustices of Peace of the County adioyning, shall bee thought fit to bee allowed for their necessary sustenance, in their returne into their owne Countreys onely, and not otherwise: And these proportions so allowed by them to be set downe in writing, vnder their hands, to be certified to the Lord Treasurer of England, within forty dayes after such allowance giuen.

And in like manner, his Maiestie doeth hereby giue a speciall Charge as well to the Lord Maior of the Citie of London, and all Maiors and Magistrates of the Out-Portes, as also to all Sheriffes, and Iustices of Peace of the Maritime Counties, and all and singular his Maiesties Officers of his Customes, for their senerall Limites, places of attendance, and Iurisdictions respectiue, that the Articles specified in the said Imprinted Booke of Orders for restrayning the Exportation of Corne and Victuall be duely and carefully obserued and put in execution.

Lastly, his Maiestie doeth hereby signifie and declare to all and singular Maiors, Sheriffes, Iustices of Peace, Bayliffes, Aldermen, and other his Officers, Ministers and Subjects whome it may concerne; That as his Maiestie hath published this his Royall Proclamation, and the sayd Imprinted Orders for the safety, weale and plenty of his people, and for the preseruing of the liues and health of the poore, against Famine, and the diseases which follow the want of wholesome foode, and doubteth not but good effects will ensue thereof, if euery man in his place will readily and willingly put to a helping hand,



for the execution of the good Orders contained in the sayd Booke, and in this his Proclamation: So, if by neglect, or contempt hercof, those euill effects which may then bee feared, doe ensue, his Maiestie and his Throne are innocent; And the offendours as they may well expect the iust Judgement of Almighty God, so let them bee assured, that his Maiestie will require a strict and seuerer accompt of them, and inflict such punishment on them, as those persons deserue, who doe incurre his high displeasure and indignation, and as may iustly bee inflicted vpon the contemners of his Royall Commandement in a case of such necessity and importance.

Giuen at His MAIESTIES Court at Hampton, the eight and twentieth day of September, in the sixt yeere of His MAIESTIES Reigne of Great Britaine, France and Ireland.

✠ God saue the King. ✠



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